IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (canceled),

22. (new)  A method to correct inoperability between elements of a computer system, the method comprising:

identifying a first product having first and second instances, the first instance configured in an upgraded configuration and the second instance configured in a non-upgraded configuration;

identifying a supplier of a second product comprising a software package specifying operability with the first instance and inoperability with the second instance;

obtaining the second product;

testing the second product to discover a basis of operability thereof with the second instance, the basis comprising at least one of a software product, an alternative configuration of the second product, a hardware manipulation of the first product, and a hardware exchange of at least one component of the first product; and

disclosing to the supplier the existence of operability of the first product with the second instance.

23. (new)  The method of claim 22, further comprising offering the basis of operability to at least one of the supplier and the public.

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24. (new)  The method of claim 23, wherein the offering comprises at least one of an offer of license to the basis of operability and an offer to sell the basis of operability.

25. (new)  The method of claim 24, wherein the disclosing comprises privately disclosing.

26. (new)  The method of claim 25, wherein the testing is performed by an entity independent from the supplier.

27. (new)  The method of claim 26, wherein the disclosing is performed by the entity.

28. (new)  The method of claim 27, further comprising disclosing publicly the existence of operability of the first product with the second instance.

29. (new)  The method of claim 22, wherein the disclosing comprises privately disclosing.

30. (new)  The method of claim 22, wherein the testing is performed by an entity independent from the supplier.

31. (new)  The method of claim 22, wherein the disclosing is performed by an entity independent from the supplier.

32. (new)  The method of claim 22, further comprising disclosing publicly the existence of operability of the first product with the second instance.

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33. (new)  A method to correct inoperability between elements of a computer system, the method comprising:

identifying a first product having first and second instances, the first instance configured in an upgraded configuration and the second instance configured in a non-upgraded configuration;

identifying a supplier of a second product comprising a software package specifying operability with the first instance and inoperability with the second instance;

obtaining the second product;

testing the second product to discover a basis of operability thereof with the second instance; and

communicating to the supplier the existence of the basis of operability and a request that the supplier take a specified action to remedy the inoperability.

34. (new)  The method of claim 33, wherein the testing is performed by an entity independent from the supplier.

35. (new)  The method of claim 34, wherein the communicating is performed by the entity.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the specified action comprises taking steps toward effecting operability of the first product with the second instance.

37. (new) The method of claim 36, further comprising failing, by the supplier, to take the specified action.

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38. (new) The method of claim 37, further comprising providing, by the entity to the supplier, motivation to take the specified action.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the motivation comprises taking steps toward obtaining a legal remedy against the supplier.